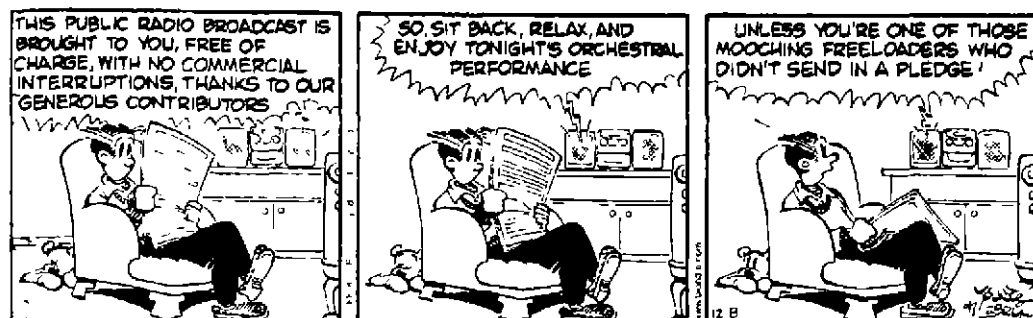
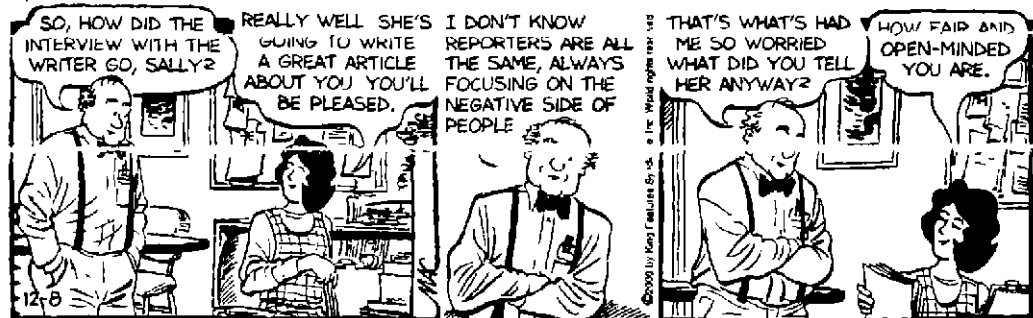


BLONDIE



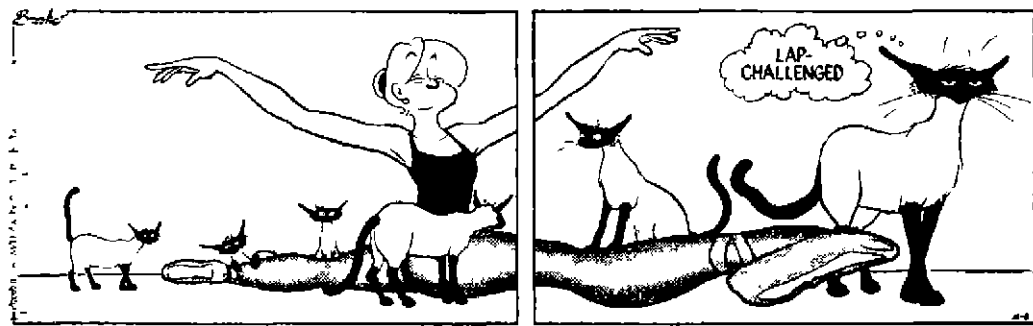
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



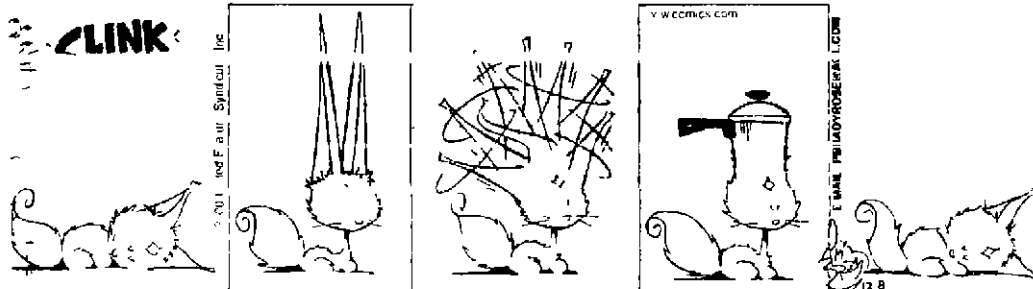
9 CHICKWEED LANE



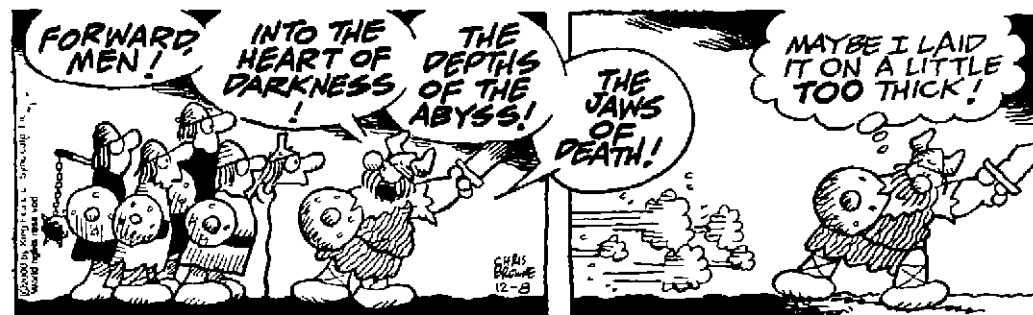
JUMP START



ROSE IS ROSE



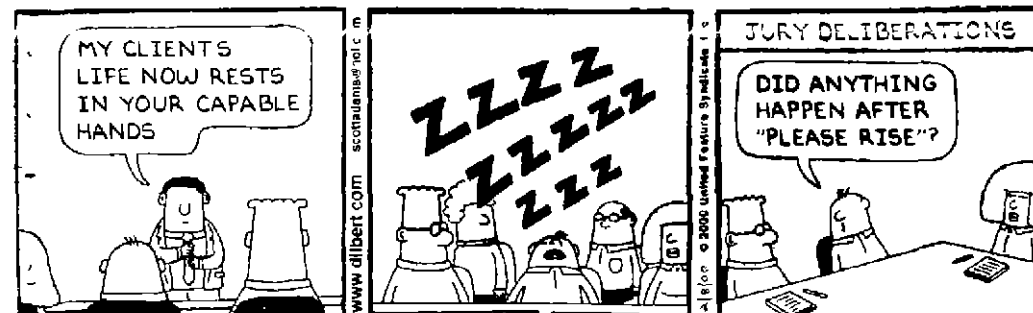
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



DILBERT



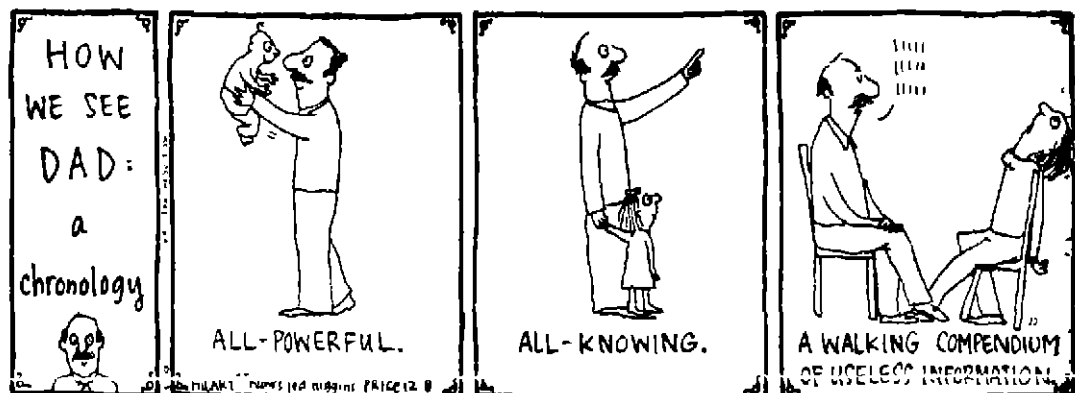
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Singer-songwriter
Floyd Tillman is 86
Movie director
Richard Fleischer is 84
Actor-director
Maximilian Schell is 70
Actor David Carradine is 64
Actor James MacArthur is 63
Flutist James Galway is 61
Singer Jerry Butler is 61
Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 58
Actor John Rubinstein is 54
Rock singer-musician Gregg Allman is 53
Actress Kim Basinger is 47

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

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ET O R H C I H

I G T H C N A

H R E M S T O

U P E R K U E

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points to each word using scoring of 1 to 4 points per letter. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Cranberry). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 12-8-00 2000 United Feature Syndicate Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Saturday, Dec. 9, 2000

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) If there is an important decision looming before you and you have all the facts, it might be time to move ahead on it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) If special gifts present themselves, accept them graciously.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your limitations might become diffused if you can work on your own.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Parties and gatherings might be especially appealing to you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Some situations cannot be avoided.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) If things around you appear chaotic, make a method out of the madness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If tempers are flaring, try to avoid getting upset.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you make an effort to appear more humble than you are, others will be convinced.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't let yourself panic if things become too hectic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) If your environment appears to be in flux, learn to adapt.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Getting your priorities straight will lend the much-needed clarity you crave.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Take some time to enjoy the arts and think about what relevance they have today.

WORD SLEUTH

HUMAN SKELETON

IDMAXUROLJGDAXV
SPENKILFCAXFVSQ
OETLJAAHSEECAX
VTARPPNLI AKMLJH
FDTRABBVLYXUVTR
POAMBILUKIIRLGE
DCRBDEBZRXXCWLU
ATSNPITIRQOANLJ
INAGFFBRTDCSMAY
XMLWVSUREMUHTSR
PONULELCIVALCKJ

Thursday's unlisted clue: **BATSMAN**
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue has **THIGHBONE**

Capal	Mandible	Ribs	Tibia
Claude	Maxilla	Sacrum	Ulna
Foula	Metalarm	Skull	Vertebrae
Humerus	Pelvis	Tarsal	

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

Today's exciting deal features a huge gain by the U.S. women in their semifinal match against Norway. East's double of North's five-club bid was lead-directing against an expected heart contract by South. However, when South jumped to six hearts, East had no justifiable reason to repeat her desires for a club lead. The second double alerted South to the impending dangers (the first double may have been obfuscation) and she moved quickly to six no-trump. Here, there were more than enough tricks to ensure success, and the U.S. team picked up an 11-IMP swing. (In the replay, Norway stopped at game.) What would have happened had East resisted the impulse to repeat the lead-directing message? A club lead would have given East a ruff, and the spade ace would have led to a one-trick set. Instead of losing 11 IMPs, Norway would have gained 11 IMPs, a swing of 22 IMPs. With lead-directing doubles, as with other matters, once is usually enough, twice is likely to be more than enough.

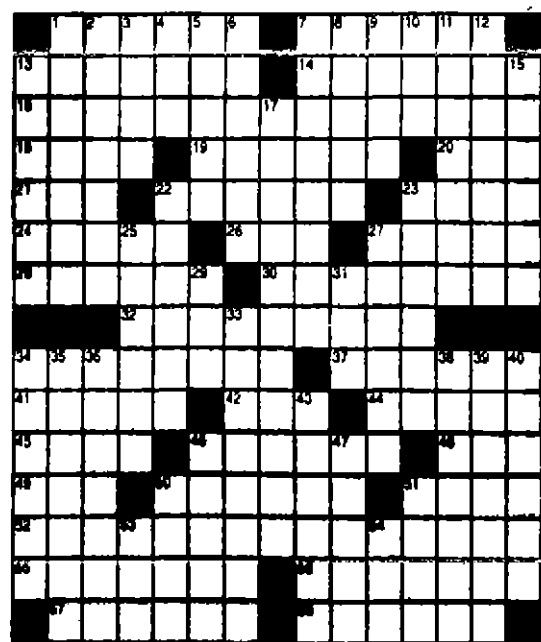
N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1027

- ACROSS**
- 1 Obtain, as support
- 7 Bum applications
- 13 Water bed
- 14 Brother of Cassandra
- 16 Order in the court
- 18 Mr. (soft drink brand)
- 19 Kind of economics
- 20 Brandy designation
- 21 Like Bruckner's Symphony No. 7
- 22 Upright monumental stone
- 23 One who studied "at the feet of Gamaliel"
- 24 "Orfeo" composer Luigi
- 26 Cal
- 27 Living doll
- 28 Certain medical student
- 30 Pieces of eight?
- 32 Cargo liner for hire
- 34 Compliment at a dress shop
- 37 Having a laugh
- 41 Like some stock
- 42 Heilmann's heading
- 44 Prefix with centric
- 45 Spoils
- 48 Confutes
- 48 Dig in
- 49 "Livin' Thing" rock grp
- 50 Obi fabrics
- 51 Tempo
- 52 Merely support
- 53 Heilmann
- 54 Like some jugs
- 57 In an imitable way
- 58 Concave

DOWN

- 1 Occasion at Stonehenge
- 2 Least feeling
- 3 Life's partner
- 4 "Girl Like You Loved a Boy Like Me"
- 5 Be of use
- 6 Fitting room activities
- 7 Bookish
- 8 Hot blood
- 9 Apple's apple, e.g.
- 10 Animation
- 11 Better
- 12 Dress for summer
- 13 Hope
- 15 Some scarves
- 17 Person in a street interview
- 22 Something to reflect on
- 23 Engine sound
- 25 Attacks
- 27 Villanies
- 29 Thumbs down
- 31 "Gotcha!"
- 33 Like some funds
- 34 Arms on big bodies?
- 35 Not in time
- 36 Scared off
- 38 Cover a point?
- 39 Put on stage
- 40 Act grandfatherly to
- 43 Signaled slyly
- 46 Tower site
- 47 Writing by Montaigne
- 50 It's a wrap
- 51 Direction
- 53 Brain test for short
- 54 TV drama settings



Puzzle by Murray Close

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch tone phone 1-900-420-5656 (\$56 per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years 1-888-7 ACROSS